By the Queene.

Dyalmuche as it is notorious, in what sort, sithence the publiche arrest first made of the Queenes Maiesties subiectes, and of their shippes and goodes in the lowe countreys of the kyng of Spayne, in the later ende of Decem. ber, in the yeere of our Lorde God. 1568. her Maiestie hath ben pleased to geue sundry orders for the preseruation of the goodes of the subiectes of the sayde kyng, beyng afterwarde arrested in this Realme, for the indempnitie of her Maiesties subiectes, without yeeldyng to make any sale of them, sauyng some smal portions, which otherwyse would haue perished, although sale was before made generally in the lowe countreys of the goodes of her Maiesties subiectes there arrested: and howe also afterwarde her Maiestie was wel pleased, that certayne of her marchantes should repayre into the lowe countreys, to treate with the Duke of Alua, Lieuetenant to the sayde kyng, who had already solde theyr goodes, for some treatie of a mutual restitution of al manner of thynges arrested or stayed in any of the kyngdomes and countreys of both the sayde princes, whereby not only the subiectes of both partes, beyng owners, myght be relieued by recouerie of their owne, but thereby thoccasion of vnkindnesse, that myght for lacke of restitution ensue betwixt both the princes, myght also be auoyded. Whereupon dyd also followe, that certayne persons in the name of both the princes, haue treated for the manner of restitution, wherein many delayes haue ben vsed by the ministers of the part of the sayde kyng. And yet when by the frequent solicitation of her Maiesties ministers vsed, it was thought that al the great difficulties of the treatie had ben fully past, and that the articles and couenantes were ordered to be faire written, or, as the common speache is, put into mundum, so as it was on the Queenes Maiesties part dayly looked, that the same shoulde haue ben subscribed and sealed by the ministers on both sides, and so order for restitution to haue followed without delay: her Maiestie notwithstandyng this her preceadyng, findeth that contrarye to her expectation, the ministers that treated on the part of the kyng of Spayne, not only lacked sufficient authoritie to conclude, as reason was they shoulde, and as they had from the begynnyng thereof ben oftentymes remembred, to procure sufficient commission: but also they dyd, when the conclusion was looked for, newly offer before her Maiesties counsel, to adde such other strange clauses and conditions, as coulde not be accepted in any reason, without the manifest preiudice of her Maiesties honnour, and principally, without a playne and open gate or way to defeate the very certaintie of restitution to her Maiesties subiectes, with a special prouision notwithstandyng for a certaintie for the subiectes of the kyng of Spayne. Whereof, though the sayd ministers were playnely and at good length enfourmed by her Maiesties counsel, & most earnestly required to reformme the same, and to make al the couenantes equall & reciproke for both partes: yet they woulde not be induced thereto, pretendyng that without further authoritie from the Duke of Alua, they coulde not alter those theyr newe clauses. Wherfore, her Maiestie consyderyng the long delayes herein vsed, the decayes of the goodes here arrested, the lamentable complaintes of her marchantes for lacke of relief, with this also, that in the lowe countreys the goodes of her Maiesties subiectes were already solde, by order of the Duke of Alua long tyme sythence, and that in Spayne also such as were of any value, were solde by order of the kinges ministers there, and the rest, for the most part, wasted for lacke of keeping: hath by aduise of her sayd counsel, as it were thereto vrged by very necessitie, determined to cause a publiche sale to be made of the goodes of the sayde kynges subiectes arrested in any of her Maiesties dominions. In whiche sale, her Maiesties determination and pleasure is, that al dexteritie and sinceritie shalbe vsed: and for that purpose, her Maiestie hath by aduise of her counsel, caused a competent number of expert, skilful, & honest marchantes, aswel Englishe men, as straungers of sundry nations, to be appoynted, whereof also suche of the subiectes of the sayde kyng of Spayne, as conueniently coulde be founde, haue ben named, called, and offered to be parties yf they wyl, who vpon their othes shal make open sale of al the shippes, goodes, wares, and marchandizes arrested, to the most aduantage and aduauncement in price they can or may, without shewyng any affection therein directly or indirectly, to them selues, or to any other person whatsoeuer. And for the better execution thereof, her Maiestie is pleased, and doth licence euery proprietarie or owner of any the sayde shippes or goodes so arrested or deteyned here, as is aforesayde, or the factour, or lawful attourney of any suche owner, safely and freely to come into this Realme, at any tyme within thirtie dayes after the publication hereof, presenting them selues with al conuenient speede after their arriual, to suche as shalbe appoynted to sell the sayde marchandizes, and not doyng or attempting any thyng to the

derogation or hurt of her Maieſtie, her ſubiectes, or Realme, but to depart after the ſaid ſales made to them without they ſhalbe otherwyſe licenſed: and that they may alſo lawfully buye al ſuche goodes, wares, and marchandizes, as by theyr markes, or otherwyſe may be proued to belong to them, geuing as muche as any other reaſonably wyll for the ſame, and that all and euery perſon and perſons buying any of the ſayde ſhyppes, goodes, wares, or marchandizes, may carry and tranſport the ſame into any place or countrey beyonde the ſeas, where it ſhal ſeeme good to them, yf the ſame can not as profitably be ſolde here, paying al dueties and cuſtomes due and payable for the ſame. And for the further declaration alſo of her Maieſties good diſpoſition and intent, her Maieſtie doth by theſe preſentes notifie to al perſons, that notwithſtandyng the proceadyng of this ſale, none ſhalbe refuſed that ſhal come from the ſayde kyng fully authoriſed by commiſſion, but ſhalbe wyllyngly heard to treate further, and conclude any thyng that may tende to the benefite and good of both theyr kyngdomes and countreys, and to the weale of the marchantes and ſubiectes on both partes. And foraſmuche as it is ſuſpected, that diuers perſons haue imbeceſſed and conueyed, and yet doo witholde diuers goodes, wares, and marchandizes belongyng to the ſubiectes of the ſayde kyng of Spayne: her Maieſtie doth ſtraightly charge and commaunde al manner of perſons within her dominions, whiche haue ſythence the tyme of the forſayde arreſt had any ſhippes, goodes, or money, belonging to the ſubiectes of the ſayd kyng of Spayne, in his or theyr cuſtodie or poſſeſſion, whereof there is no report yet made, accordyng to a proclamatiõ ſet foorth the laſt of June. 1570. ſhal within fourtie dayes after the publication hereof, bryng or ſende a full report thereof, to ſuche perſons as ſhalbe aſſigned or appointed for the ſale of the wares and marchandizes, vpon payne that any makyng default of ſuche reporte, ſhal not only incurre her Maieſties diſpleaſure, but ſhal alſo after this admonition, be charged & puniſhed as concealors and deteynors thereof with felonious mindes and intentes.

Geuen at her hyghneſſe pallace of Weſtminſter, the fourteenth day of Januarie, in the fourteenth yeere of her Maieſties raigne.

God ſaue the Queene.

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